Lauren Breton

Philosophy of Education

My philosophy of education is deeply rooted in student-centered learning. I believe in catering my teaching styles to any way that students need in order to be able to become effective learners. I believe in putting emphasis on meeting students wherever they are and then challenging all students so that they can grow. I am also a huge advocate for project-based learning and creating authentic experiences for students. My philosophy is closely aligned with constructivism, which empowers and encourages students to create meaning through their own individual framework of understanding. I also closely identify with the philosophy of reconstructionism, and I believe that by fostering learners who are aware of social injustices and who explore social questions through curriculum, we as a society can address social issues and create more responsible citizens who make the world a better place.

For me, English is all about communication and making connections; connections with texts, connections between texts, and connections with people. Developing these skills of communication and connections are integral aspects of life that extend far beyond my classroom. The ability to make connections and to communicate effectively that will be honed in my classroom will help students to succeed in every aspect of their life, from their personal relationships to their professional relationships. These communication skills will also be incredibly important in facilitating the expression of students’ critical thinking skills and for students to articulate their opinion in a way that is both understanding and non-judgmental.

I believe that each student brings a unique and valuable perspective to every experience and that I will learn as much from my students as they will learn from me. Through a plethora of different teaching styles and material, from contemporary young adult literature to the more classic works, students will be learning about the importance of words and how words affect not only themselves but also all other readers. Through dynamic curricula, I will encourage students to connect with texts and to become lifelong learners. Teaching communication and collaboration through my content area with my students allows each member of the classroom to feel encouraged and empowered, as well as allowing each person to be respected and able to learn.

By cultivating a culture of acceptance in my classroom, we will be able to embrace all kinds of diversity, from cultural to educational. All students will feel accepted, regardless of any and all of their differences. Students will be free to express their opinions and will also be empathetic and understanding when others disagree with their opinion for whatever reason. Through this safe environment, students will learn how to give constructive feedback as well as how to accept constructive feedback.